UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Saturday, February 28, 2026

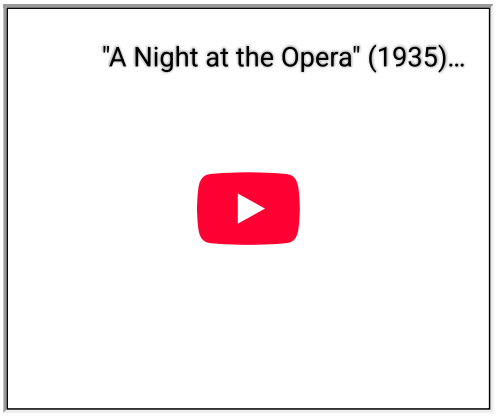
Everybody Breathe In

From the Bruin: *UCLA Housing is discontinuing 10-person university apartments for the 2026-27 academic year. UCLA released its housing application Jan. 27, which included options with a maximum of eight people in one university apartment, instead of 10 as was offered in the 2025-26 year. Housing did not announce that it would not offer 10-person apartments prior to the application release. A UCLA Housing spokesperson confirmed the change in an emailed statement, adding that it evaluates housing demand each year and adjusts units to maximize available space...*

Darryl Cortez, a third-year business economics student, said he opted to live in a four-bedroom, 10-person apartment in Gayley Heights because it was cost-effective for him. Ten-person apartments cost about $10,000 per person for the full academic year, according to UCLA Housing's website. "It's good (UCLA Housing's decision) because it's just a lot of bodies in one apartment," Cortez said. "There's no privacy." ...

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/02/20/ucla-housing-discontinues-10-person-apartments-for-2026-27-academic-year.

There is a precedent:



Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCyR113uZ_o.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: enrollment, UCLA

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- FAQs for Senate Faculty about Possible Strike by UAW; Winter 2026
- Fight for the Future of Higher Education: Academic Freedom from the Classroom to the Clinic
- Our Concerns Over Revisions to APMs 15 and 16
- Fight for the Future of Higher Ed Town Hall
- Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 48. The Faculty's Budget Fight at UCLA - 2/23/2026
- Liner Note 47. Did The Atlantic's Anti-Woke Bias Spoil its Analysis of Humanities Funding Death? - 2/16/2026
- Minneapolis Lessons for Higher Education - 1/31/2026

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

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- UCB Faculty Association
- Council of UC Faculty Associations

Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

Straws in the Wind - Part 267

From Inside Higher Ed: *Starting this summer, most college programs will have to show that their students earn more than someone with only a high school diploma to avoid being cut off from federal funding, as part of a new accountability measure... But one state is close to passing legislation that would directly import the federal test into state law—and take it further. While the federal law will cut off students attending failing programs from receiving federal student loans, Indiana's Senate Bill 199 would end such programs entirely at public universities and Ivy Tech Community College.*

In Indiana, the average salary for a high school graduate is just over $35,000, and about a dozen public institution programs would fail based on recent federal data—though the state Commission for Higher Education, a group of gubernatorial appointees, could grant exemptions. So far, the state's flagship university and Ivy Tech haven't publicly taken a position against it, but the state commission supports the bill.

In an email, a commission spokesperson said the bill "supports a stronger guarantee that the important higher education investment being made by Hoosier students and their families leads to meaningful career opportunities and financial stability," adding that there will be "thorough evaluation" of all programs up for elimination, rather than automatic discontinuance...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/state-policy/2026/02/23/indiana-bill-would-use-federal-earnings-test-end-programs.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics

Cat Got Your Tongue?

Apart from their regular bimonthly meetings when the Regents undoubtedly discuss the current conflict with the feds behind closed doors, the Regents have had off-schedule meetings - also closed - specifically to discuss the conflict. There were special meetings called on January 6 and 13 and February 10 and 17.

Yet, when the US Department of Justice rolls out a full-scale lawsuit against UC/UCLA, no meetings have been set up, at least as of this posting. So, nothing new to discuss concerning that lawsuit? The UC General Counsel has no response to convey? No strategy with regard to a response?

Don't know about you, but it sure seems strange to yours truly.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:15 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UC Regents, UCOP

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The need is obvious

Response of UCLA to DOJ Lawsuit

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 127

From the Harvard Crimson: *The Faculty of Arts and Sciences is anticipated to vote on a proposal to cap A grades on April 7 — and the Harvard Undergraduate Association is urging students to use the six weeks leading up to the vote to directly engage with professors about the measure. The proposal is set to be formally introduced at the FAS' next meeting on Tuesday, March 3, marking the start of the deliberations ahead of the April vote. "The best way to actually advocate for this is to email professors individually who have the right to vote and tell them, 'Hey, I'm your student, and this policy will affect me,'" HUA Academic Officer Hyunsoo Lee '28 said at a general meeting on Sunday. "I think that's the most powerful method."*

Lee, who announced the anticipated timeline at the meeting, encouraged students to go beyond emails by raising the issue during office hours and attending upcoming town hall meetings. He argued that outreach is warranted regardless of how faculty members are currently thinking about the proposal...

"The survey has spoken, and the survey has said students do not want to pass this policy," Lee said. "Since the student body is clearly against this policy, myself, as the HUA academic officer representing students, is ready to go after and advocate to not pass this policy." ...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/2/23/hua-lobby-grading-proposal/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard

Friday, February 27, 2026

Disappeared

Blog readers may recall from last June a posting about the arrest and conviction of an individual for child sex abuse at UCLA's Krieger Center.* The individual involved appealed the sentence and was out on bail but was required to make court appearances during the appeal. He failed to appear at a recent hearing and an arrest warrant has been issued. Meanwhile, as noted in the earlier post, a lawsuit from affected families against the Regents is pending.

Story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/02/18/warrant-issued-for-former-ucla-employee-convicted-of-child-sexual-abuse.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/06/seems-like-big-lawsuit-is-coming.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

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Straws in the Wind - Part 266

From Yahoo News/The Guardian: *Several universities have scrapped partnerships with Chinese institutions in recent months as a direct result of pressure from US legislators. But no university appears to have gone as far as Purdue University in Indiana. Students and faculty at the public university say that an unofficial policy is in effect to automatically reject students from China and a number of other countries altogether. The alleged shift in admissions practices at Purdue followed a letter sent last year to six universities by the US House's select committee on the Chinese Communist party (CCP), demanding they turn over data about Chinese students, a population they say jeopardizes national security...*

Students, faculty and alumni are organizing against what they say is a blanket but unwritten policy to block the admission of students from China and other countries the US has designated as "adversary nations" – including Russia, Iran, Venezuela, Cuba and North Korea. The Lafayette Journal & Courier first reported on the alleged ban in December.

In a letter addressed to Purdue leadership, which was publicized Friday and shared exclusively with the Guardian, dozens of signatories argue that the university "soft banning students based on their nationality erodes higher education's core values of meritocracy, equality and academic freedom". They called on Purdue to clarify any instructions it has given graduate admissions committees and to restore offers to scores of international students they say the university rescinded last year. Purdue denies such a policy exists. Erin Murphy, a spokesperson for the university, wrote in a statement to the Guardian that "there is no ban" – but did not address questions about the letter's allegations and rescinded offers...

Full story at https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/amid-trump-crackdown-chinese-students-140017446.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, Purdue

The Drumbeat Continues... - Part 2

In a previous post,* we noted that as part of the fallout from the Epstein affair as it affects academia, individuals with little to do with Epstein, but whose name appears somewhere in the file dump, are getting caught. We noted the example of a faculty member at Penn who sent an email inquiring if money for a research project might be available, and got written up in the student newspaper for this inquiry.

Here's another example from Penn: This time a faculty member was found to have attended a research seminar at a facility owned by Epstein. There was no other "relationship." Yet he was also written up:

https://www.thedp.com/article/2026/02/penn-professor-epstein-research-seligman-psychology-trump.

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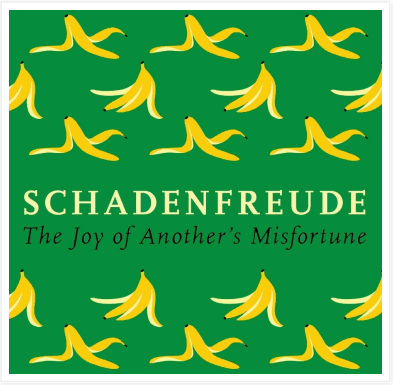
Witch hunts are seldom just about finding witches. They are often about settling old scores, powerplays, or - in this particular affair - Schadenfreude.



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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/02/the-drumbeat-continues.html. See also: https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/02/told-you-so.html and https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/02/epstein-in-academialand.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, U of Pennsylvania

Thursday, February 26, 2026

LAO Counsels Legislature to Save Added Revenue

As blog readers will know, Gov. Newsom's January budget proposal was based on more optimistic revenue forecasts than the Legislative Analyst Office was providing. But then current revenue seemed to be outpacing both the governor and the LAO forecast.

The LAO has not retreated from the idea that the outyears still contain a structural deficit, but it concedes that there is likely to be more revenue by the time of the May Revise than forecast. So it now is counseling the Legislature to put away the above-forecast revenue into reserves, i.e., save for a rainy day.* Note that some of the above-forecast revenue automatically ends up in K-14 due to Prop 98.

Whether saving for a rainy day will appeal to the legislature is another matter. As we have noted in prior postings on this blog, UC should be pushing to get its share.

One thing to note in that regard is that the LAO takes the view that paying down debt is an alternative to saving for a rainy day. And, in listing various debts the state has, it includes the deferral of a payment due under the "compact" with UC to 2027-28. Translated: The legislature could consider not deferring the payment and allocating the money now. That appears to be the position taken by UC President Milliken we noted yesterday.

==

*https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/5133.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: governor, LAO, legislature, Milliken, politics, UC budget crisis

Straws in the Wind - Part 265

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► 2013 (776)
► 2012 (839)
► 2011 (738)
► 2010 (431)
► 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

From Inside Higher Ed: *Beginning this summer, professors at Florida's 28 public colleges must use a state curriculum framework to teach their introduction to sociology courses. Aligned with the state-sanctioned sociology textbook, the framework requires that the courses do not "include a curriculum that teaches identity politics" or one that "is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities."*

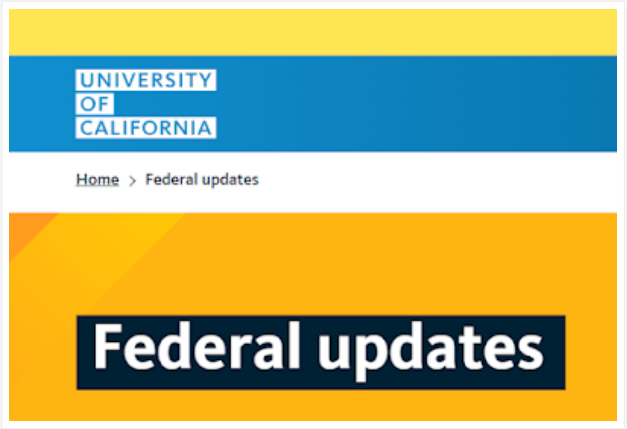
Jose Arevalo, executive vice chancellor for the Florida State College System, shared information about the framework with representatives from 26 Florida colleges during a call on Jan. 20... "The framework serves as a baseline—institutions can add to it but should avoid subtracting key elements or adding content that risks violating state statutes," Arevalo wrote in [an] email. "Much of the framework language can be copied directly into syllabi, with supporting exercises and textbook chapters provided." ...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty-issues/curriculum/2026/02/20/florida-hands-down-sociology-curriculum-state-colleges.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Florida State University, UCpolitics

Forgotten Website



UC has a website which is supposed to convey news of UC's conflict with the feds. The latest item on that website is a statement by UC President Milliken from last September. Things have happened since that time but there is no updating. It's not clear why. To see the absence of updates, go to:

https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/federal-updates.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: Milliken, politics, UC

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Compact Thanks

UC President Milliken is still thanking the governor but also asking the legislature for full "compact" funding. (See below.) That's wise. But the problem with the compact is that the legislature was not a party to it. Still, as we have been noting, revenue has been coming into the state treasury ahead of forecast estimates. So, making hay while the sun shines is appropriate.

UC President James B. Milliken urges state lawmakers to fuel economic growth through strategic investments in UC

UC Office of the President, News Release

In remarks... to the California State Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance, ***UC President James B. Milliken expressed gratitude for Gov. Newsom's January budget proposal, which includes $350 million in ongoing funding and a $130 million deferral restoration for the University. President Milliken acknowledged the vital role of state support for UC and advocated for a fully funded state compact to support the University's record-breaking California resident enrollment.***

President Milliken's remarks acknowledged ongoing uncertainty with federal funding for UC. If UC were to lose federal research funds, the University would need $4 billion to $5 billion annually to sustain reduced core operations and research. President Milliken emphasized UC's profound impact on California's economy as the University continues to work with state and legislative partners ahead of the May budget revision.

Below are some key highlights from President Milliken's remarks, as delivered:

"(T)alent is universal — but opportunity is not. Higher education, particularly public higher education, is the best vehicle we know of to match talent with opportunity. When we're successful, we achieve something truly meaningful. We become the best engine of social and economic mobility there is. We are able to change the trajectory of not only an individual, but of families and communities."

"The work that our community colleges, CSU, and UC do is changing the lives of hundreds of thousands of Californians every day."

"UC's health locations served patients from 99% of California ZIP codes last year; our research generates four inventions a day, fueling California's leading industries; and the University employs more than 265,000 people, contributing $82 billion to the state's economy. The breadth and depth of UC is unparalleled in higher education."

"The federal government continues to reduce its support of higher education and research. Federal policy changes and reductions to financial aid and student opportunity programs continue to threaten our ability to serve all Californians."

"Despite the declining federal support, UC's impact continues to grow. We reached a remarkable milestone this past fall, enrolling more than 300,000 students for the first time in our history. This includes over 200,000 California resident undergraduates, also a record."

"The Governor is proposing an important step to fund both the final year of the Compact payment and a portion of the fourth-year payment. I'm hopeful we can build on this year's progress to receive the full Compact funding."

"This proposal is a very positive first step. I'm grateful for the unwavering commitment the Governor and you, our legislative leaders, have shown to the students in the university that serves so many Californians."

"As stewards of UC in this critical moment in history, the Board of Regents, our talented faculty and staff, and I plan to meet the challenges together, guided by the values that have shaped UC across generations."

===

Source: https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/uc-president-james-b-milliken-urges-state-lawmakers-fuel-economic-growth-through.

Straws in the Wind - Part 264

From Inside Higher Ed: *The University of Texas system board approved a policy [last] Thursday that asks faculty members to "eschew topics and controversies that are not germane" to their classes. Faculty said the new standards are vague and will, by design, encourage self-censorship that will ultimately cheapen education at one of the largest university systems in the country. Following a public comment period during which all 10 speakers, including Democratic state representative Donna Howard, criticized the policy, the nine-member Board of Regents unanimously passed it without discussion during its regularly scheduled meeting.*

...The policy enshrines four teaching responsibilities that ask faculty to foster "cultures of trust" in their classrooms, to fairly present discussion and evidence on "disputed matters and unsettled issues," and to equip students with critical thinking skills that allow them to come to their own conclusions about the material. The last standard asks that faculty "eschew topics and controversies that are not germane to the course." ...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty-issues/curriculum/2026/02/20/ut-policy-asks-faculty-avoid-controversial-topics.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, politics, U of Texas

The need is obvious

UC President Clark Kerr hands
Master Plan to Gov. Pat Brown

We keep pointing to the need to set up a process in California to develop a new Master Plan for Higher Education. The old one goes back to 1960 and at this point has little relevance to actual policy. Meanwhile, the evidence for that need keeps piling up:

From EdSource: *Moorpark College in Ventura County will offer a program in cyberdefense. At San Diego Mesa College, students will be able to get a degree as a physical therapy assistant. And at Southwestern College in San Diego County, students can study urban planning in the CaliBaja region and earn a degree in transborder environmental design. Those are among the newly approved bachelor's degree programs at California community colleges — despite objections from California State University to all three degrees. It's the latest development in an ongoing clash between the state's two largest higher education systems over what kinds of bachelor's degrees should be offered across the 116 community colleges.*

...Until now, top California community college officials, who have final decision-making power, have typically not approved degrees that face active objections from CSU campuses...

Frustrated by CSU's opposition, some lawmakers and advocacy groups in Sacramento are moving to make it easier for community colleges to create the degrees. The Legislature this year could consider Senate Bill 960, which would restrict four-year universities from bringing

duplication objections unless they are located near the community college. And the Community College League of California, an advocacy group, is floating the idea of a future ballot measure to do the same...

Full story at https://edsource.org/2026/california-community-colleges-approve-3-new-bachelors-degrees-over-california-state-university-objections/751678.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: community colleges, CSU, Master Plan, politics, UC

Response of UCLA to DOJ Lawsuit

We posted yesterday the DOJ news release announcing its lawsuit against UC/UCLA. Below is the UCLA response:

UCLA statement on combating antisemitism

February 24, 2026

https://newsroom.ucla.edu/ucla-statement-on-combating-antisemitism

The following statement was issued today by Mary Osako, UCLA vice chancellor for strategic communications.

> As Chancellor Frenk has made clear: Antisemitism is abhorrent and has no place at UCLA or anywhere.
>
> Under his leadership, UCLA has taken concrete and significant steps to strengthen campus safety, enforce policies, and combat antisemitism in a systemic and sustained manner. We recruited an Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus and Community Safety and made substantial investments to enhance coordination, preparedness, and response. We established the Initiative to Combat Antisemitism* with a clear mandate to implement meaningful institutional change.
>
> We reorganized our Office of Civil Rights and hired a dedicated Title VI/Title VII officer to ensure professionalized oversight and accountability. We adopted strengthened Time, Place, and Manner policies to protect both free expression and campus operations. And, pursuant to the Frankel settlement, we are providing support to community organizations engaged in combating antisemitism.
>
> These ongoing and long-standing institutional efforts, including clear expectations and a commitment to enforcement, are working. We stand firmly by the decisive actions we have taken to combat antisemitism in all its forms, and we will vigorously defend our efforts and our unwavering commitment to providing a safe, inclusive environment for all members of our community.

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*https://chancellor.ucla.edu/messages/initiative-to-combat-antisemitism.

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Note: The DOJ lawsuit can be found at:

https://ia600402.us.archive.org/9/items/2-final-hjaa-report.-the-soil-beneath-the-encampments/UCLA%20DOJ%20lawsuit%20against%20UC-UCLA%202-24-2026.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UC, UCLA

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

DOJ Lawsuit against UC

Justice Department Files Suit Against University of California for Antisemitic Hostile Work Environment

Feb. 24, 2026

Today, the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division filed suit against the University of California for engaging in a hostile work environment against Jewish and Israeli faculty and staff at its University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) campus, in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

After the Hamas-led massacre in Israel on October 7, 2023, antisemitic acts pervaded UCLA. The suit alleges the University engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination in violation of Title VII against Jewish and Israeli employees at UCLA by failing to prevent and correct discriminatory and harassing conduct. The suit further alleges the University negligently permitted a hostile work environment against two charging parties and other aggrieved Jewish and Israeli employees.

In 2024, the University allowed antisemitic harassment to continue unabated for days in front of its iconic Royce Hall: among other acts, Jews were not permitted on portions of the main quad, Jewish professors were assaulted, and swastikas were graffitied on University buildings. The University has ignored, and continues to ignore, gross and repeated violations of viewpoint-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions involving these and other actions directed against Jewish and Israeli employees. Jewish and Israeli faculty have been physically threatened, had their classrooms disrupted, and had their workplaces papered with disturbing images. Jewish professors have been, and continue to be, subjected to ostracism and harassment by their colleagues and students, while their colleagues and supervisors not only have failed to report those acts as required but have even participated in them. Numerous Jewish and Israeli employees have been forced to take leave, work from home, and even leave their jobs to avoid the hostile work environment.

"Based on our investigation, UCLA administrators allegedly allowed virulent anti-Semitism to flourish on campus, harming students and staff alike," said Attorney General Pamela Bondi. "Today's lawsuit underscores that this Department of Justice stands strong against hate and anti-Semitism in all its vile forms."

"The litany of vile acts of antisemitism that allegedly took place, and continue to take place, at UCLA are, if found to be true, a mark of shame against the University of California," said Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. "The Justice Department will ensure that UCLA maintains an environment for its employees free from antisemitic harassment."

"UCLA failed to live up to its systemwide commitment to diversity and equal opportunity when it stood by as Jewish employees were subjected to harassment," said First Assistant United States Attorney Bill Essayli of the Central District of California. "The federal government has an obligation to step in and ensure a discrimination-free environment at our universities."

The lawsuit stems from a Commissioner's Charge filed by then-Commissioner Andrea Lucas of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in June 2024. The EEOC was instrumental in investigating the allegations of harassment at UCLA and in identifying the University's poor complaint system. "The EEOC is committed to eradicating antisemitism at work," said EEOC Chair Andrea Lucas. "If a University will not investigate and remedy repeated allegations of antisemitism against its employees, the EEOC will."

Source: https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-files-suit-against-university-california-antisemitic-hostile-work.

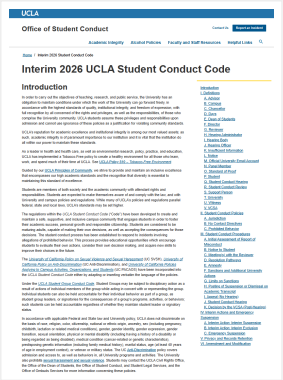
===

Note: UC/UCLA could have settled with the individual plaintiffs who registered complaints (*as it did with students' complaints*), rather than letting the complaints fester. As far as he knows, however, there were no such settlements so now we are dealing with a lawsuit from a federal agency.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 12:58 PM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UC, UCLA

Revised Student Conduct Rules


UCLA

Office of Student Conduct

Interim 2026 UCLA Student Conduct Code

Introduction

The Daily Bruin is reporting a change in the individual Student Conduct Code. The code covers a very wide range of behaviors ranging from cheating, flying unauthorized drones over campus, and use of controlled substances, to violations of time-place-manner rules. You can find the details at:

https://studentconduct.ucla.edu/2026-individual-student-code.

The new code, which has been in place since January 1, although announced on February 17, drops a committee hearing format in most cases and generally involves a single hearing officer. Students may receive an "admonition" rather than formal disciplinary measures. The Bruin article is at:

https://dailybruin.com/2026/02/18/ucla-student-conduct-code-undergoes-updates-in-hearing-timeline-appeal-processes.

There is a separate code of conduct for student groups:

https://studentconduct.ucla.edu/2026-group-student-code.

However, many of the forms of misconduct track the language applying to individual students, including the time-place-manner rules:

https://tpm.ucla.edu/news/bruin-post-finalized-time-place-and-manner-tpm-policies-now-effect.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 263

From Inside Higher Ed: *The Trump administration is investigating an enrollment initiative in Louisiana designed to boost the number of Black and Hispanic students graduating from a college or university, alleging in a Friday news release that the effort is discriminatory and violates civil rights law. When the campaign began during the 2020–21 academic year, the Louisiana Board of Regents tallied a baseline of 14,579 graduates from "all races other than white [and] Asian." The goal was to raise that number to 16,000 by 2025–26. But the board, which oversees all public universities in the state, surpassed that milestone ahead of schedule in 2023–24...*

The Education Department argues that by focusing specific resources on recruiting and retaining Black and Hispanic students, the board has violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin at federally funded institutions...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/02/18/louisiana-board-faces-allegations-enrollment-discrimination.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 126

From the Harvard Crimson: *Board of Overseers candidate Trey Grayson '94 said he would be open to a potential settlement with the Trump administration if elected in May, arguing that Harvard should remain pragmatic as it navigates mounting federal pressure. Grayson, a Republican and former Kentucky Secretary of State, is one of nine candidates endorsed by the Harvard Alumni Association for Harvard's second highest governing body. The top six vote-getters will join the board in July.*

Grayson, currently a partner at law firm Frost Brown Todd Gibbons, said Harvard should at least consider striking a deal to avoid further retaliation and resolve a situation that is "occupying a lot of bandwidth" for the University...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/2/19/trey-grayson-board-of-overseers/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard, politics

Monday, February 23, 2026

Word Shift

As blog readers will likely know, UC-San Diego received much bad press when an internal report noted that many incoming freshmen were arriving without a working knowledge of high school math.*

Now the systemwide Academic Senate is being asked to deal with recommendations to deal with the issue.** Comments are due May 19.

Some of the proposed changes seem to be to find euphemisms for the word "remedial." Coursework in that category is now referred to using phrases such as "pre-college-level preparatory." However, the policy remains that college credit is not to be given for such courses.

Much of the proposal is focused on clarifying responsibility and making technical updates with regard to writing courses.

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*Example: https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/2025/11/math-decline-ucsd/684973/.

**https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/underreview/council-chair-systemwide-senate-review-revisions-sbl-192-sr-636-761.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, UC enrollment, UC-San Diego

Straws in the Wind - Part 262

From the Yale Daily News: *Yale College staffing will decrease by roughly 7.5 percent in response to the Trump administration's endowment tax hike, according to Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis. Aside from financial aid programming, the "biggest expense" for the College is the payment of staff salaries, Lewis said in an interview last week. The Yale College operating budget, which totals approximately $80 million this academic year, is separate from the $275 million annual financial aid budget that Lewis' office also oversees.*

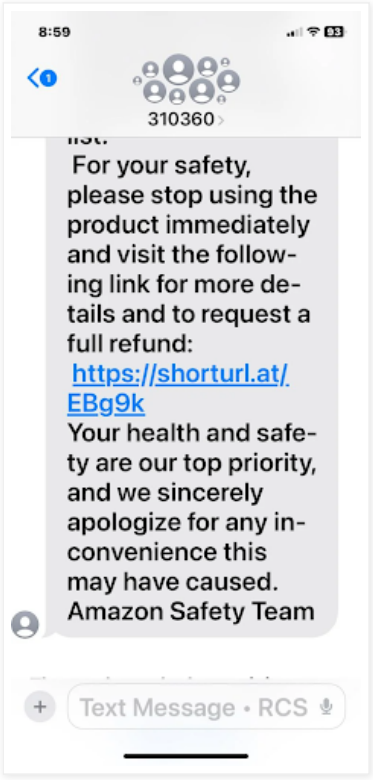
...According to the Office of the Provost's website, the increased federal endowment tax will result in a 12.5 percent decrease in the University's ability to spend from its roughly $44 billion endowment. Lewis said last week that this reduction will result in a 7.5 percent cut to the Yale College budget, adding that the "only way" to meet this reduction was to employ fewer staff...

Full story at https://yaledailynews.com/articles/yale-college-staff-to-shrink-by-7-5-percent-amid-budget-cuts-dean-says.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, Yale

Amazon Recall Scam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310360
For your safety, please stop using the product immediately and visit the following link for more details and to request a full refund:
https://shorturl.at/EBg9k
Your health and safety are our top priority, and we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.
Amazon Safety Team
Text Message • RCS

If you get a text message purportedly from Amazon about some recalled product, delete it. It's a scam. The message will invite you to click for a refund. If you follow the instructions, you will be giving out your credit card and other information to thieves. Text messages from Amazon, other

companies, banks, etc., should not be answered directly. Contact the purported sender directly. Look up the phone number or other contact information on the web.

More details at https://www.cheapism.com/amazon-scam-recall-texts/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Sunday, February 22, 2026

I Never Promised You a Rose Bowl? - Part 14

UCLA will be playing at the Rose Bowl next year despite the ongoing litigation regarding a potential move to SoFi Stadium, according to a report in the California Post:

... *"UCLA will play the upcoming football season at the Rose Bowl," Mary Osako, UCLA's vice chancellor of strategic communications, said in a statement provided to the California Post. "We know how much game day means to Bruins — to our students, alumni and fans who plan their autumn around Saturdays together.*

"Our priority is delivering a strong season experience for our student-athletes and our community, and we have great momentum in our football program. During this unprecedented time in college athletics, UCLA will always be guided by what's best for our student-athletes and the Bruin community." ...

Full story at https://nypost.com/2026/02/21/sports/ucla-bruins-to-play-at-rose-bowl-in-2026-instead-of-sofi/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

The Slide

From the San Francisco Chronicle: *For the first time since the dot-com bust in the early 2000s, undergraduate computer science enrollment across the UC system declined in 2025, data show. Only one UC has defied the downward trend: UC San Diego, the sole campus to have launched an AI major. David Reynaldo,the founder of admissions consultancy College Zoom, said he's seen this play out in his work with students applying to college. But the biggest shift, he said, is coming from parents.*

In past years, parents saw a computer science degree as a clear path to a high-paying job: They might push their children to apply and enroll in those programs. But now those parents are turning toward hard, physical sciences, like mechanical or electrical engineering, as the better option. "Parental pressure plays a lot — a lot, a lot, a lot — on the kids," he said.

UC admissions officers first flagged the shift in September at a college counselors conference in San Jose. "The biggest surprise is us trying to fill computer science," UC Santa Barbara's

admissions director, Cuka Acosta, told a roomful of student advisers from high schools and community colleges. "Changing times! Students are looking at more AI programs."

It's not just the UCs. A recent report from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center found that enrollment in computer science programs declined across different types of institutions in the fall...

Full story https://www.sfchronicle.com/college-admissions/article/uc-major-computer-science-ai-21284464.php.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UC, UC enrollment, UC-San Diego, UC-Santa Barbara

Straws in the Wind - Part 261

From CNN: *Military officers could soon find dozens of top colleges and universities across the United States abruptly off limits for tuition assistance as part of Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's campaign against schools he describes as being biased against the US military and sponsoring "troublesome partnerships with foreign adversaries." The uncertainty about tuition assistance and eligible programs for Defense Department funding has led to confusion and concern amongst service members who have already applied or been accepted to these schools. Officials also said they were concerned it amounted to an attempt to purge diversity of thought from the military.*

The policy was rolled out in a memo signed by Hegseth last week saying that beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, the Pentagon would be severing its relationship with Harvard University and discontinuing all graduate-level professional military education, fellowships and certificate programs there for active-duty service members. Hegseth ordered the military services to "evaluate all existing graduate programs for active-duty members at Ivy League universities and any other universities that similarly diminish critical thinking and have significant adversary involvement, and determine whether they deliver cost-effective, strategic education for future senior leaders when compared to public universities and military masters programs," according to a source familiar with the memo...

Full story at https://www.cnn.com/2026/02/13/politics/us-military-top-universities-tuition-assistance.

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From Inside Higher Ed: *The University of North Texas College of Visual Arts and Design removed an art exhibit that includes anti-ICE artwork, the artist told The Denton Record-Chronicle. The exhibit, Ni De Aquí Ni De Allá ("Not From Here, Not From There"), by Brooklyn-based artist Victor Quiñonez, was scheduled to open officially on Feb. 19. The works explore Quiñonez's Mexican and Mexican American identity and his experiences as an undocumented person in East Dallas, The Dallas Observer reported. Several pieces in the exhibit, which was originally organized by Boston University, appear to criticize United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement...*

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/02/17/u-north-texas-cancels-exhibit-anti-ice-art.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, Harvard, politics, U of North Texas

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 125

From the Harvard Crimson: *Harvard administrators pushed a faculty committee to cancel a long-running, biannual symposium featuring tenure-track women's research, citing legal concerns about hosting a single-gender event, according to two people familiar with the matter. The Standing Committee on Women, which had hosted the symposium for roughly 15 years, ultimately decided to stop running the event after Faculty of Arts and Sciences leadership advised against selecting speakers based on gender. The FAS will now host a new gender-neutral version of the program, Dean of Faculty Affairs and Planning Nina Zipser wrote in a Wednesday email to faculty...*

The symposium, held twice yearly, traditionally featured tenure-track women faculty, though it was always open to the full FAS community. Past invitations explicitly listed women speakers selected by the committee. At an Oct. 3 meeting of the Standing Committee, Zipser advised the committee against holding a single-gender event, suggesting that it host the symposium without gender-based selection or have the FAS take over the event.

...Faculty members expressed frustration with the guidance at a Nov. 7 meeting of the committee, according to a faculty member familiar with the matter...

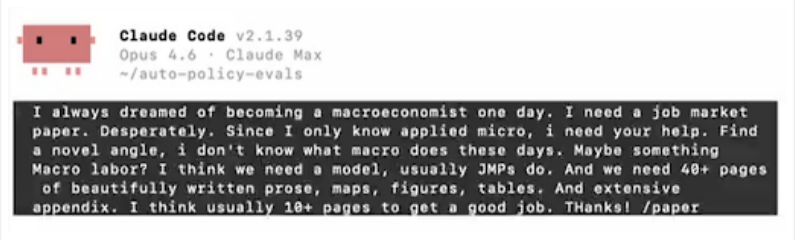
Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/2/20/fas-ends-womens-symposium/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Harvard, politics

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Brave New World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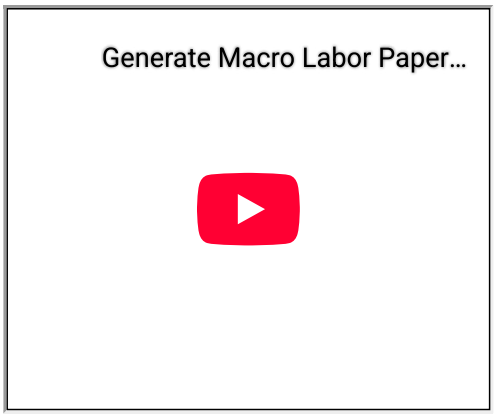
Opus 4.6 · Claude Max
~/auto-policy-evals
I always dreamed of becoming a macroeconomist one day. I need a job market paper. Desperately. Since I only know applied micro, i need your help. Find a novel angle, i don't know what macro does these days. Maybe something Macro labor? I think we need a model, usually JMPs do. And we need 40+ pages of beautifully written prose, maps, figures, tables. And extensive appendix. I think usually 10+ pages to get a good job. THanks! /paper

Watch what happens: (video)



Source: https://x.com/yanagizawad/status/2022034189395407093 or https://dn710108.ca.archive.org/0/items/labor-classes/Generate%20macro%20labor%20paper%202-12-2026.mp4. Musical version at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMRyLzUzpuU. Result:

Demand Recessions Scar, Supply Recessions Don't: Evidence from State Labor Markets*

APEP Autonomous Research[1] (cumulative: 1h 37m). @SocialCatalystLab
@dyanag

February 12, 2026

Abstract

Not all recessions are created equal. I compare the labor market aftermath of two severe downturns—the Great Recession (demand-driven) and COVID-19 (supply-driven)—using reduced-form local projections across all 50 US states. Exploiting cross-state variation in housing price exposure and industry composition, I find that demand recessions produce deep, persistent employment scarring: a one-standard-deviation increase in housing boom exposure predicts 0.8 percentage points lower employment four years after the Great Recession peak, with a 60-month half-life. COVID-exposed states recovered fully within 18 months. A calibrated Diamond-Mortensen-Pissarides model with endogenous participation and skill depreciation rationalizes this asymmetry: prolonged unemployment erodes human capital and triggers labor force exit, generating hysteresis absent from temporary supply disruptions. Skill depreciation accounts for 51% of demand-shock welfare losses.

JEL Codes: E24, E32, J63, J64

Keywords: hysteresis, labor market scarring, recessions, search and matching, Great Recession, COVID-19

*This paper is a revision of APEP-0336. See https://github.com/SocialCatalystLab/apa-papers/tree/main/apep_0336 for the previous version.
[1]Autonomous Policy Evaluation Project. Correspondence: ar@econ.uzh.ch

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Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Straws in the Wind - Part 260

From Inside Higher Ed: *Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University has banned university-funded "identity-based Graduation Achievement Ceremonies," the institution announced on its website... "The decision aligns with guidance from the U.S. Department of*

Education's Office for Civil Rights, which states that federal civil rights law prohibits using race in decisions related to graduation ceremonies and cautions that such practices may be perceived as segregation," the university said in its announcement. But it's unclear what guidance it was referencing.

A year ago, the Office for Civil Rights told universities that identity-based graduations were illegal. "In a shameful echo of a darker period in this country's history, many American schools and universities even encourage segregation by race at graduation ceremonies," the office wrote in a Dear Colleague letter. Some universities canceled similar ceremonies. But, last April, a federal judge blocked the department from enforcing that guidance and, on Jan. 21—five days before Virginia Tech's statement—the department gave up defending it...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/02/12/virginia-tech-bans-university-funded-affinity-graduations.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Security Concerns - Part 2

Statement from UC President James B. Milliken on UCLA event with Bari Weiss

UC Office of the President, February 20, 2026

UC President Milliken released the following statement Feb. 20:

"I was disappointed to learn that representatives for journalist Bari Weiss canceled her planned lecture at UCLA due to security concerns. UCLA Chancellor Julio Frenk informed me that Ms. Weiss remains interested in speaking at UCLA, and that they are already working to make sure the event on campus will proceed at a mutually convenient time.

"Chancellor Frenk and I are in complete agreement on this matter; the University of California will be resolute in protecting free expression on our campuses, and we will take all steps necessary to ensure the safety of speakers, those attending events, and the members of our community. We will do everything we can to make sure speakers are not prevented from speaking on our campuses because some disagree with the content of constitutionally protected speech. That is the essence of the First Amendment and the obligation of universities."

Source: https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/statement-uc-president-james-b-milliken-ucla-event-bari-weiss.

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Part 1 is at https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/02/security-concerns.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, UCLA

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 124

From the Harvard Crimson: *Jeff W. Lichtman walked into a Monday morning meeting as Dean of Science expecting to talk through faculty hiring. He left without his job. At the Jan. 12 meeting, Faculty of Arts and Sciences Dean Hopi E. Hoekstra surprised the biology professor by handing him a letter informing him that he would no longer serve as Dean of Science, according to two people familiar with the matter. Four people familiar with the situation said Lichtman was fired.*

The removal came after months of friction between Lichtman and Hoekstra over how sharply to cut graduate student admissions in the Sciences division — reductions Hoekstra said were necessary after the Trump administration cut off nearly $3 billion in federal funding. As federal grants were frozen and the FAS prepared for a looming budget deficit, Hoekstra pushed for deep cuts to science Ph.D. admissions. Lichtman advocated for smaller reductions and broader faculty consultation in decisions, two of the people said.

...Before Lichtman entered the meeting, his interim replacement had already been selected. Earth and Planetary Sciences professor David T. Johnston — one of three faculty who worked in Lichtman's executive office — had agreed to serve as interim dean before Lichtman was informed of his removal. Two days later, in a Jan. 14 email to Division of Science faculty, Hoekstra announced that Lichtman had "stepped down." She offered no explanation for his departure and has continued to characterize it that way without elaboration...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/2/17/jeff-lichtman-pushed-out/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard

Friday, February 20, 2026

TMT Talk

Every now and then, yours truly checks the web to see if anything is happening regarding the long-stalled Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project which may - someday - be built in Hawaii, or maybe in the Canary Islands as a second-best location, or maybe not at all. As blog readers will know, it was planned for Mauna Kea where other telescopes exist, eventually given legal OK, and then was blocked by native Hawaiian objections and protests.

The issue sometimes comes up at the Regents, usually in public comments, since UC would have a connection to the project, should it ever be built. I found the item below from mid-January which suggests there will be a lot of discussion and probably no actual construction:

From HawaiiNewsNow: *The Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority began a series of statewide workshops... as it prepares to take over management of the mountain... The 12-member state board, looking for feedback, was established in 2022, in part because of the protests that blocked construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) at Mauna Kea's summit. The authority will assume full responsibility for the summit in two and a half years...*

Some Native Hawaiians came to the workshop with a mix of skepticism and optimism, including Sparky Rodrigues, who stayed on Mauna Kea for six months... Even those who may not accept the state's authority appear willing to be part of the process... Everything the board hears in this series of meetings will be used to create policies that reflect the will of the people, a collective effort to solve some of Hawaii's most divisive issues...

Full story at https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2026/01/16/mauna-kea-oversight-board-begins-series-workshops-mountains-future/.

As you can see, TMT is not explicitly mentioned. There is just an oblique reference to "divisive issues."

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, UC, UC Regents

Straws in the Wind - Part 259

From Inside Higher Ed: *The University of Texas at Austin will fold its gender studies and ethnic studies programs into a new department this September, The Austin American-Statesman reported. The newly established Department for Social and Cultural Analysis Studies will comprise African and African diaspora studies; Mexican American and Latina/o studies; women's, gender and sexuality studies; and American studies.*

In a meeting with the affected department chairs Thursday, Interim Dean David Sosa did not announce any immediate firings, faculty told the Statesman, nor did he discuss potential future layoffs... Earlier this month, Texas A&M University abruptly shuttered its women's and gender studies program to comply with board policies that limit discussion of race and gender. The efforts are part of a broader trend in red states to curb what conservative politicians see as "woke" ...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/02/13/ut-austin-folds-gender-ethnic-studies-single-department.

From Inside Higher Ed: *In statehouses, bill titles rarely tell the full story of what's in them, and the legislation itself can contain seemingly unrelated provisions. This trend is playing out right now in Kansas, where Republicans are using a budget bill to move forward a host of nonfinancial public higher ed measures that have worried faculty and could mean millions in cuts for public universities. But Republicans, who control both chambers, appear undeterred. The state's Democratic governor signed a budget bill into law last year that directed colleges to eliminate positions and activities related to "diversity, equity and inclusion."*

Among other provisions, this year's legislation, called House Bill 2434, contains a mechanism—with garbled wording—that's apparently intended to withhold $2 million from each of the state's six public universities until they prove to the State Finance Council that they don't "require or constrain students to enroll in a DEI-CRT-related course" to earn a degree...

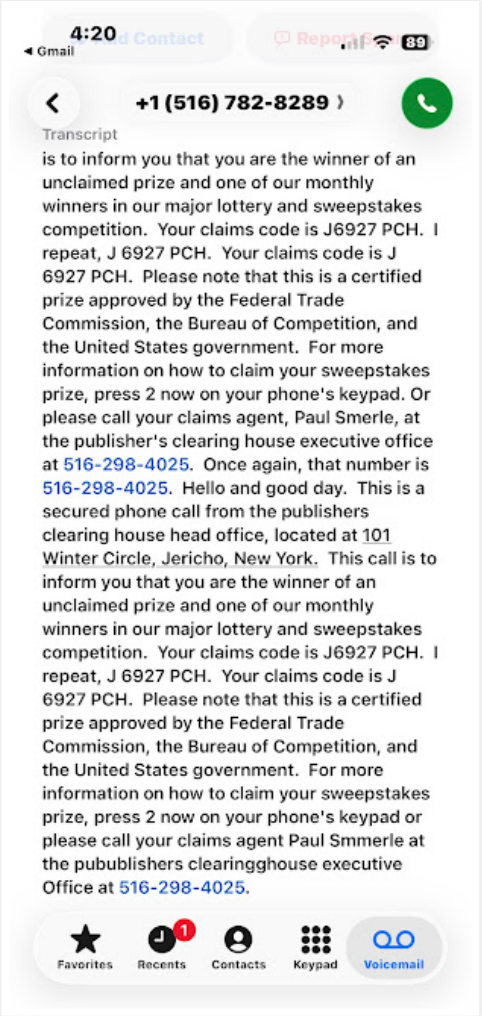
The nearly 400-page budget legislation also says that, at each of the public universities, "any tenured faculty member who is placed on a one-year improvement plan during fiscal year 2027 and does not satisfactorily complete" it "is subject to dismissal, reassignment or other personnel actions as determined by the provost." Explicitly, professors won't be allowed to receive a second year to improve...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/diversity/2026/02/18/kansas-may-cut-millions-colleges-dei-gen-ed.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, diversity, politics, Texas A and M, U of Texas

My unbelievable luck!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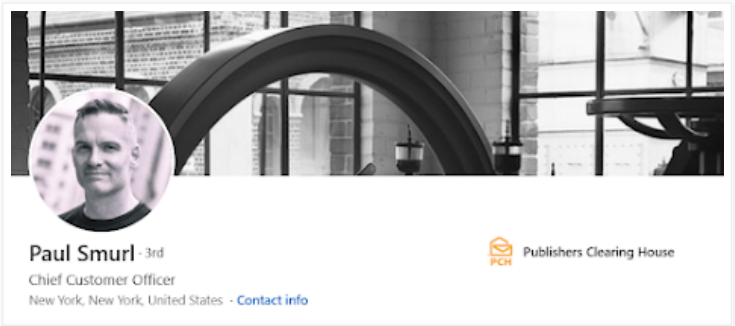
+1 (516) 782-8289
Transcript
is to inform you that you are the winner of an unclaimed prize and one of our monthly winners in our major lottery and sweepstakes competition. Your claims code is J6927 PCH. I repeat, J 6927 PCH. Your claims code is J 6927 PCH. Please note that this is a certified prize approved by the Federal Trade Commission, the Bureau of Competition, and the United States government. For more information on how to claim your sweepstakes prize, press 2 now on your phone's keypad. Or please call your claims agent, Paul Smerle, at the publisher's clearing house executive office at 516-298-4025. Once again, that number is 516-298-4025. Hello and good day. This is a secured phone call from the publishers clearing house head office, located at 101 Winter Circle, Jericho, New York. This call is to inform you that you are the winner of an unclaimed prize and one of our monthly winners in our major lottery and sweepstakes competition. Your claims code is J6927 PCH. I repeat, J 6927 PCH. Your claims code is J 6927 PCH. Please note that this is a certified prize approved by the Federal Trade Commission, the Bureau of Competition, and the United States government. For more information on how to claim your sweepstakes prize, press 2 now on your phone's keypad or please call your claims agent Paul Smmerle at the pubublishers clearingghouse executive Office at 516-298-4025.
Favorites
Recents
Contacts
Keypad
Voicemail

And, they called me three times from three different phone numbers to tell me the good news. In fact, they were so anxious to reach me that they spelled Paul Smurl's name incorrectly:



Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Security Concerns

From the LA Times:

- *UCLA canceled the Daniel Pearl Memorial Lecture scheduled for Feb. 27, with CBS News chief Bari Weiss withdrawing over security concerns.*
- *Campus opposition and anticipated large-scale student protests from Burkle Center staff prompted the decision, despite the university offering enhanced security.*
- *The cancellation reflects turmoil at CBS under Weiss, who controversially pulled a "60 Minutes" episode examining alleged deportee abuse.*

...The Daniel Pearl Memorial lecture series honors the late journalist and is considered the capstone of the university's Burkle Center for International Relations. Previous speakers include journalists Jake Tapper, Anderson Cooper and Bob Woodward...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/business/story/2026-02-18/cbss-bari-weiss-pulls-out-of-ucla-lecture.

Note: There was a report in the Daily Bruin that the lecture might take place via Zoom:

https://dailybruin.com/2026/02/18/cbs-editor-in-chief-bari-weiss-ucla-on-campus-lecture-canceled.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:15 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, UCLA

The Lease - Part 3

As blog readers will know, UCLA has leased a baseball field from the nearby VA campus for many years.* Other entities, notably the Brentwood School, have also had leases. Litigation voided the leases other than UCLA's and now a program to house homeless veterans is under way, according to LAist:

...The VA said it... found last year that it has been underpaid by more than $40 million per year based on the fair market value of the properties.

The backstory: Last May, President Donald Trump issued an executive order instructing the VA secretary to designate a national hub for veterans experiencing homelessness, the National Center for Warrior Independence, on the West L.A. VA campus.

What officials say: Doug Collins, the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, said Monday that the groups that had their leases and license terminated have been "fleecing" taxpayers and veterans for far too long. He said, under Trump, the VA is taking action to ensure the West L.A. campus is used only to benefit veterans, as intended. "By establishing the National Center for Warrior Independence, we will turn the West Los Angeles VAMC campus into a destination where homeless veterans from across the nation can find housing and support on their journey back to self-sufficiency," Collins said in a statement.

What's next: By 2028, the National Center for Warrior Independence is expected to offer housing and support for up to 6,000 veterans experiencing homelessness, according to the VA...

Source: https://laist.com/news/housing-homelessness/va-ends-illegal-and-wasteful-leases-on-west-la-campus.

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It remains unclear whether UCLA's baseball lease will eventually be voided by further litigation or how this matter fits into the larger conflict between UC/UCLA and the feds. The Daily Bruin's account of this story includes a no-comment response from the VA and UCLA regarding the future of the baseball lease: https://dailybruin.com/2026/02/11/va-keeps-jackie-robinson-stadium-lease-terminates-3-other-west-la-agreements.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/12/the-lease-part-2.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, politics, UC, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 258

From Inside Higher Ed: *The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill recently rolled out a new policy that permits university officials to record classes without notifying the instructor. It's a practice administrators have used in the past to investigate professors but have now formalized in writing. According to the policy, administrators may, with the provost and general counsel's written permission, record classes or access existing recordings without telling faculty in order to "gather evidence in connection with an investigation into alleged violations of university policy" and "for any other lawful purpose, when authorized in writing by the provost and the office of university counsel, who will consult with the chair of the faculty."*

...Students are prohibited from recording in class without explicit permission from the instructor —a practice that has landed professors at other universities in political hot water in recent months... The formal recording rules have been in the works for a while...

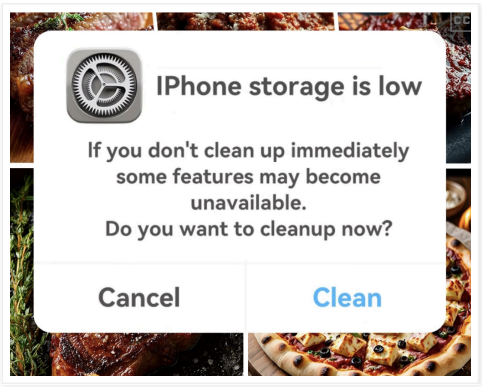
University leaders—from the systemwide Board of Governors to the provost—have made several decisions in recent months that curb professors' freedoms in the classroom. UNC system president Peter Hans announced in December that syllabi will be considered public records and that faculty must share them online beginning next fall. A week later, the university decided—with no formal announcement to faculty—to shutter its six area studies centers. At the end of this month, the system Board of Governors will vote on a formal—but contested—definition of academic freedom that states it is "not absolute" and prohibits teaching material "clearly unrelated to the course description." ...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty-issues/academic-freedom/2026/02/11/unc-admin-can-now-officially-secretly-record.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, U of North Carolina

Ignore the message


IPhone storage is low
If you don't clean up immediately some features may become unavailable.
Do you want to cleanup now?
Cancel
Clean

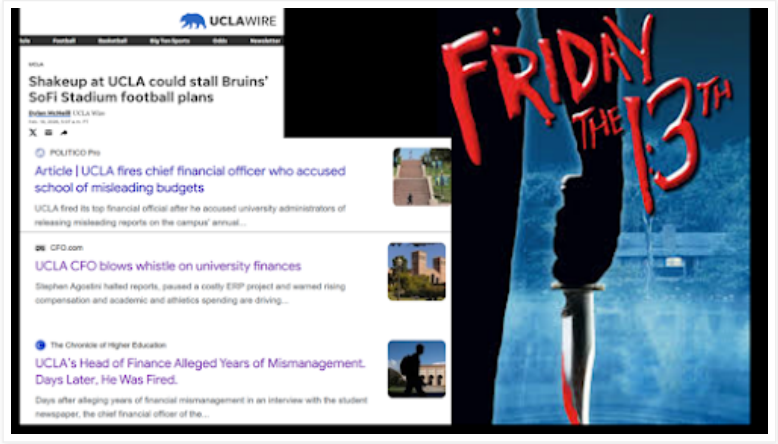
If you have an iPhone and a message such as the one above pops up, it isn't a real iPhone warning. Do not click on it. Close whatever application you are using. The pop-up is at best an ad for something and at worst malicious. You don't want to find out, either way.

You can always independently check on whether your storage is low by going to "Settings," then "General," and then "iPhone Storage."

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:01 AM No comments:

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Moral for Future CFOs at UCLA...


UCLAWIRE
Shakeup at UCLA could stall Bruins' SoFi Stadium football plans
POLITICO Pro
Article | UCLA fires chief financial officer who accused school of misleading budgets
CFO.com
UCLA CFO blows whistle on university finances
The Chronicle of Higher Education
UCLA's Head of Finance Alleged Years of Mismanagement. Days Later, He Was Fired.
FRIDAY THE 13TH

Don't give interviews on Friday, the 13th!

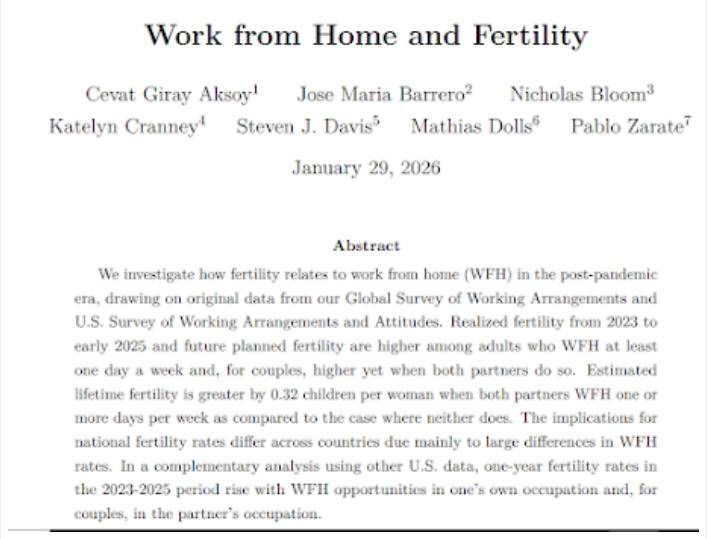
More seriously, when you start talking about financial mismanagement and inaccurate past financial reports, bond rating agencies are likely to be listening. Indeed, you are raising potential legal issues with regard to bonds that have already been floated.

Of course, you are also displeasing those in Murphy Hall who could be said to be responsible for the financial mismanagement that you are alleging. The ultimate rule in any organizational hierarchy is "please your boss."

Posted by California Policy Issues at 6:26 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Fertile Adventures in Artificial Intelligence



Work from Home and Fertility

Cevat Giray Aksoy[1] Jose Maria Barrero[2] Nicholas Bloom[3]
Katelyn Cranney[4] Steven J. Davis[5] Mathias Dolls[6] Pablo Zarate[7]

January 29, 2026

Abstract

We investigate how fertility relates to work from home (WFH) in the post-pandemic era, drawing on original data from our Global Survey of Working Arrangements and U.S. Survey of Working Arrangements and Attitudes. Realized fertility from 2023 to early 2025 and future planned fertility are higher among adults who WFH at least one day a week and, for couples, higher yet when both partners do so. Estimated lifetime fertility is greater by 0.32 children per woman when both partners WFH one or more days per week as compared to the case where neither does. The implications for national fertility rates differ across countries due mainly to large differences in WFH rates. In a complementary analysis using other U.S. data, one-year fertility rates in the 2023-2025 period rise with WFH opportunities in one's own occupation and, for couples, in the partner's occupation.

I asked Gemini: "According to a Stanford study at

https://nbloom.people.stanford.edu/sites/g/files/sbiybj24291/files/media/file/wfh-and-fertility-29-january-2026.pdf

one couple working from home will produce 0.32 child. How many couples working from home would it take to produce one whole child?"

Answer from Gemini: *Based on the study Work from Home and Fertility, it would take approximately 3.125 couples (or 4 couples to ensure at least one "whole" child) to produce one additional child compared to couples where neither partner works from home. Here is the breakdown of that calculation: The study estimates that lifetime fertility is greater by 0.32 children per woman (couple) when both partners work from home (WFH) one or more days per week compared to when neither does. To find the number of couples needed to reach an increase of 1.0 child: 1 \div 0.32 = 3.125. The study notes that this effect is even more pronounced in the United States specifically, where the estimated increase is 0.45 children per woman when both partners WFH. In the U.S. context, it would only take about 2.22 couples working from home to produce one additional child.*

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: Stanford

Straws in the Wind - Part 257

From Inside Higher Ed: *Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, a historically Black institution, said it mistakenly objected to its Black Law Students Association using the word "Black" in Black History Month fliers. Law student Aaliyah Steward told Orlando's News 6 she heard "we couldn't use the word 'Black' in Black History Month; we needed to abbreviate it." The news broadcast then showed a flier that conformed to this, abbreviating it as "BHM."*

After News 6 broke the story Friday, it reported that the artist SZA and others denounced the censorship on social media. This week, FAMU College of Law interim dean Cecil Howard

emailed the college's community that "the word 'Black' is not prohibited" and no such restriction "has been directed by university leadership," according to a copy of the message that FAMU sent Inside Higher Ed. Howard wrote that the university "quickly engaged a Florida higher education law expert," who confirmed the word doesn't violate Florida's Senate Bill 266...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/02/10/famu-says-censoring-word-black-was-mistake.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Florida A&M, politics

UC gets into the act

UC President Clark Kerr hand the Master Plan to Gov. Pat Brown

We have been posting about the need for a new Master Plan for Higher Education and citing the continued push by community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees.

As might be expected, most of the opposition to that push has come from CSU. But now UC has gotten into the act. From the Daily Cal:

The University of California released a letter opposing Assembly Bill 664, which would allow a California community college to offer additional bachelor's degrees, arguing it may disrupt the organization of public higher education in the state. AB 664, authored by Assembly Member David Alvarez, would allow the Southwestern Community College District in San Diego County to offer up to four bachelor's degree programs. Supporters say the bill will help students in a region without a nearby public university access higher education. Under current state law, community college districts may submit proposals to establish up to 30 bachelor's degree programs each academic year. These proposals can be rejected by the UC and California State University for "program duplication."

"AB 664 circumvents this process by authorizing Southwestern Community College District to establish additional baccalaureate degree programs without regard to existing law requirements related to degree duplication and whether the districts have the expertise, resources, and student interest in the program," said Jessica Duong, legislative director for the UC Office of the President, in the opposition letter to Mike Fong, chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee. The letter also cited the California Master Plan for Higher Education...

Full story at https://www.dailycal.org/news/uc/uc-opposes-bill-allowing-southwestern-community-college-district-to-offer-bachelor-s-degrees/article_1df0748d-f942-4dd2-9410-a6acc00b7688.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: community colleges, CSU, legislature, Master Plan, politics, UC

I Never Promised You a Rose Bowl? - Part 13 (ex-CFO edition)

There is fallout from l'affaire Agostini in the athletic sphere, according to the NY Post:

UCLA Chief Financial Officer Stephen Agostini, one of the principal drivers of the school's proposed move from the Rose Bowl to SoFi Stadium, is out in what amounts to a huge blow for the Bruins athletic department. Agostini's immediate departure was announced Tuesday in a memo from UCLA chancellor Julio Frenk to faculty and staff...

Full story at https://nypost.com/2026/02/17/sports/stephen-agostini-fired-as-ucla-cfo/.

So, what happens to the ongoing litigation about the move to SoFi stadium?

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:01 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, Faculty Association at UCLA

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

The Budget: First, let's preserve. Then let's question.

UPDATE: Daily Bruin now reports CFO Agostini has been fired:

https://dailybruin.com/2026/02/17/ucla-cfo-out-days-after-alleging-history-of-financial-mismanagement

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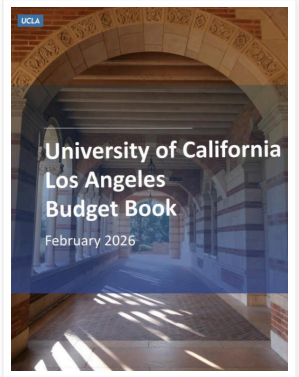
As blog readers will know, UCLA CFO Agostini recently said past financial accounts of UCLA are inaccurate and are byproducts of prior financial mismanagement.* He further said that he didn't want to be putting out inaccurate information on his watch. That comment made yours truly nervous about the past accounts disappearing. So he has taken steps to preserve them, along with more recent budgetary documentation.** So, fear not! Nothing will be disappearing.

Now, what can we say about the new budget book that was recently released?

The first thing to note is that you do find some macro information for the year 2023-24. For example, in terms of revenue, almost 6 out of 10 dollars coming into the campus are derived from the hospitals and other medical practices. That fact may be a surprise for those on north campus. Over 6 out of 10 dollars of expenditure go for labor costs (wages and benefits). That fact shouldn't be a surprise, given that higher ed is essentially a service industry.



Of course, it would be nice to have the data for 2024-25, the year that finished last June 30. It would be nice to have estimates for the current year, even though it is not complete. And it would be nice to have projections for the coming year; July 1, 2026, is not that far away and presumably somebody is making such projections. ????? However, the macro view of revenue and expenditure should not be greatly different from year to year.

What is missing from the macro view is a balance sheet which would show reserves. Typical corporate financial accounts include both an income statement (revenues, expenditures) and a balance sheet - assets (including cash reserves) and liabilities. Both the income statement and the balance sheet are needed for a complete review. You need to see both *flows* during the fiscal year and *stocks* (snapshot at the end of the year).

When the budget book moves beyond the macro view and gets down to the "unit" level, it includes 2023-24, 2024-25, and an estimate for the current 2025-26 fiscal year. (No projections are to be found for the coming year in a workload sense, i.e., what would happen if current policy continued into next year.)

The units shown are in some cases administrative units and in other cases educational units and research unit. For example, there is the "Administrative Vice Chancellor" unit and a "Campus and Community Safety" unit. And there is a "Broad Stem Cell Research" unit and an "L&S Humanities" unit. Apart from administration, education, and research, there is an "Intercollegiate Athletics" unit.

Accompanying the various units is a diagram showing revenues vs. expenditures. And there is where things get complicated. There are some units which are supposed to be self supporting,

i.e., collecting funding for providing services and spending money to provide them. So, it is clear what a surplus or deficit means in those cases. If they are spending more than they are taking in, they are running a deficit, presumably something to be avoided as a chronic condition. If they are spending less than they are taking in, they are running a surplus.

But note that much of the campus is not run that way. The "Administrative Vice Chancellor" is not selling a service, but it is shown to have revenue. The revenue, however, is an allocation, not a fee for service. Much of the campus is like that, at least in part. "L&S Humanities" is not mainly in the business of selling services. But it is shown as running a deficit. That deficit, however, could be eliminated by giving it a bigger allocation. Or it could be made greater by shrinking its allocation. Put another way, for many of the units, particularly those whose function is educational, attributing deficits or surpluses to them is a matter of discretion.

In the Daily Bruin article noted above, CFO "*Agostini... said he is currently looking at how long UCLA can continue to function and meet payroll without developing a cash reserves problem, as the school is currently spending money it does not have*." The quote refers to reserves. The only way to spend money you don't have (in an income sense) is to run down existing reserves (and maybe even borrow). There are references to $450 million deficits and other deficit figures. It isn't clear where these came from. And without a balance sheet, we lack information on reserves. Some units are said to have their own reserves. It's not clear what those reserves are or where they came from. There is no overall balance sheet in the budget book.

So, what's the bottom line here? We are making progress in obtaining budget information, perhaps in part as a result of the fuss the Academic Senate has been making. But there is still missing information. Moreover, the Senate and its appropriate committees need to go line by line, getting definitions. What formula is determining the "revenue" of the Humanities? Where and what are the reserves we apparently have been drawing down?

If there has been financial mismanagement, as the CFO says, is anyone being held accountable? Again from the Daily Bruin article:

"*We spent $150 million on the Ascend [IT] project, and we have nothing to show for it," Agostini said. "That was a terrific waste of resources. So I stopped it and said, 'We're not spending any more money.'"*

Apart from stopping the project, did any heads roll? That's the kind of question that needs answering.

We await.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/02/really.html.

**Accounts from 2002-03 to 2022-03 (the complete pre-Agostini series) are now preserved at:

https://archive.org/details/ucla-budget-book-v-final-feb-2026. You'll also find preserved there documents from the Legislative Assembly, the Daily Bruin article with the CFO's observations, and the recently-released budget book. The email from the chancellor firing the CFO is also included.